

(c) whether these units are free to charge any price from the consumers which happens to be higher than the notified prices;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to check the rising prices of drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d). Under DPCO, 1987, SSI units are exempt from price control in respect of Category II formulations.

(e) The prices of price controlled medicines are fixed/revised in accordance with the provision contained in DPCO, 1987. In respect of price decontrolled medicines, Government keeps constant watch on their prices.

[Translation]

Closure of Certain Fertilizer Units

6601. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI JAGMIT SINGH:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:
DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:
SHRI A. CHARLES:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased state:

(a) whether due to heavy cut in subsidy fertilizer, a large number of fertilizer manufacturing units are likely to be closed down;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c). No, Sir. However, out of about 135 fertilizer manufacturing units, 24 units manufacturing Single Superphosphate (SSP) in small and medium sector are reported to have temporarily stopped producing SSP mainly due to some delay in revision of subsidy taking into account cost escalations arising out of increase in the cost of imported raw materials. Some of these units out of 24, however, continued to manufacture sulphuric acid. All efforts are being made to revise the subsidy on account of cost escalations expeditiously.

[English]

Nuclear power Plant for Kerala and Kamataka

6602. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director of Chemical Research, Indira Gandhi Atomic Research Centre, Kalpakkam has pointed out that there is need for nuclear power generation for States like Kerala and Kamataka whose increasing power needs could not be met by hydel generation alone;

(b) whether it has been pointed out that these States had now become power starved due to lean monsoon;

(c) whether it has also been pointed out that nuclear power generation would be cheaper compared to thermal power;

(d) if so, whether the Government have considered the view of the expert; and

(e) if so, the time by which it will likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, The installed power generating capacity in Kerala is at present totally based on Hydro Electric Power Stations and in Karnataka it is predominantly based on Hydro Electric Power Generation. The conditions of lean monsoon do adversely affect the Hydro power generation in these States. Coal fired Thermal Power Plants have been planned in these States:

(c) Yes, Sir. The cost of generating nuclear electricity from the nuclear power stations at locations away from coal pit-heads including locations at Kerala and Karnataka would be comparable to that of conventional Thermal Power Plants using coal as fuel. Moreover, difficulties of long distance haulage of coal can be reduced by a strategy of such location of Nuclear Power Plants at distances away from coal-pit-heads.

(d) and (e). Governments' policy has generally been to set Nuclear Power Plants at locations away from coal pit-heads with the objective of an optimal mix of installed capacity. In Karnataka Kaiga - 1 & 2 (2x220 MWe) Nuclear Power Reactors are already under construction and the Eighth Plan proposals of Department of Atomic Energy envisage addition of 4x220 MWe units. (Kaiga 3 to 6) at the same site subject to availability of funds. In Kerala no Nuclear Power Stations have so far been set up. Investigation and review of possible sites in Kerala are in progress by a Site Selection Committee of Department of Atomic Energy. Identification and clearance of sites for Nuclear Power Station have to go through detailed review from safety and environmental angles by concerned bodies before Government of

India can take a decision. Besides setting up of such projects will have to be consistent with the availability of funds.

Foreign Investment Proposals

6604. SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of foreign investment proposals cleared during the financial years 1991-92;

(b) the total value of the investment envisaged in foreign exchange;

(c) the break-up by countries of collaboration;

(d) the break-up by industrial or commercial sector;

(e) the break-up products proposed to be manufactured or traded; and

(f) the number of schemes in which the project is exclusively for export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) to (d). A Statements I and II giving the details of the approvals - country-wise and industry-wise respectively, are enclosed.

(e) The details of the approved foreign collaboration proposals, viz; name of the foreign collaborators, the nature of collaboration and items of manufacture are being published by the Indian Investment Centre, New Delhi as a supplement to its monthly Newsletter. Copies of these publications are sent regularly to the Parliament Library.

(f) During the year 1991-92 (1.4.91 to 29.2.92), 69 proposals have been approved, wherein the products are exclusively for exports.